

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07

IO-10 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /089 W

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R 270855Z OCT 75

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1249

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS 0173

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

US DEL SALT TWO GENEVA 0051

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0500

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD
OCTOBER 20-26, 1975

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE VIENNA TALKS AGAIN MARKED TIME THIS WEEK.
THE EAST CUT BACK ON EFFORTS TO PROBE CONCERNING THE LIKELIHOOD OF A
WESTERN NUCLEAR OFFER. EASTERN REPS PRESSED FOR WESTERN ACCEPTANCE
OF THE EASTERN APPROACH TO THE FORCE VBE NITIONS ISSUE.
THE OCTOBER 21 INFORMAL SESSION WITH THE EAST DEALT
WITH FAMILIAR GENERAL THEMES. EASTERN REPS CRITICIZED
THE BASIC POINTS OF THE WESTERN POSITION ON REDUCTIONS,
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WHILE THE ALLIED SIDE STRESSED THE MUTUAL BENEFITS

OF APPROXIMATE PARITY IN GROUND FORCES. THE WEST MADE THE ONLY STATEMENT AT THE OCTOBER 23 PLENARY MEETING. IT REVIEWED WESTERN PROPOSALS FOR STABILIZING MEASURES IN THE LIGHT OF THE COMMON RECOGNITION DEMONSTRATED IN THE CSCE FINAL ACT THAT MISUNDERSTANDING OF MILITARY ACTIVITIES CAN GIVE RISE TO APPREHENSION. IN ITS OCTOBER 24 ORAL REPORT TO NAC, THE AD HOC GROUP ESTIMATED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO MOVEMENT FROM THE EAST PRIOR TO THE TABLING OF OPTION 3. END SUMMARY.

2. WITH A LULL IN EASTERN EFFORTS TO DRAW OUT WESTERN REPS CONCERNING THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ALLIED OFFER TO INCLUDE NUCLEAR ELEMENTS (OPTION 3) IN THEIR REDUCTIONS PROPOSALS, THE VIENNA TALKS GENERALLY MARKED TIME THIS WEEK. BOTH SIDES REVERTED TO FAMILIAR GENERAL THEMES IN THE OCTOBER 21 INFORMAL SESSION. THE OCTOBER 23 WESTERN PLENARY STATEMENT REVIEWED PROPOSALS FOR STABILIZING MEASURES PREVIOUSLY ADVANCED BY THE WEST. SUBSTANTIVE EAST-WEST BILATERAL CONTACTS CENTERED MAINLY ON THE ISSUE OF FORCE DEFINITIONS.

3. IN ADVOCATING THE EASTERN APPROACH TO FORCE DEFINITIONS IN A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH UK REP ROSE, SOVIET DEPREP SMIRNOVSKY INSISTED ON THE LOGIC OF INCLUDING THE DISPUTED CATEGORY OF AIR DEFENSE FORCES UNDER AIR FORCES SINCE THEIR FUNCTION WAS TO DEFEND AGAINST AIR ATTACK. SMIRNOVSKY WAS UNABLE TO REBUT ROSE'S COUNTER-ARGUMENT THAT IT WAS JUST AS LOGICAL TO ASSIGN SUCH FORCES TO GROUND FORCES AS THEIR ROLE WAS LARGELY ONE OF DEFENDING GROUND TARGETS.

4. THE OCTOBER 21 INFORMAL SESSION OF THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS DEALT WITH GENERAL POINTS STANDARD TO THE APPROACHES OF BOTH SIDES. EASTERN REPS CLAIMED THE WEST SOUGHT TO ALTER THE EXISTING FORCE RELATIONSHIP IN CENTRAL EUROPE IN FAVOR OF NATO, CRITICIZED THE ABSENCE OF AIR FORCES AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS FROM THE WESTERN PROGRAM AND CHARGED THAT NON-US NATO PARTICIPANTS WERE EVADING REDUCTION

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OBLIGATIONS. WESTERN REPS STRESSED THAT THE SECURITY INTERESTS OF ALL PARTICIPANTS WOULD PROFIT FROM APPROXIMATE PARITY IN GROUND FORCES AS IT WOULD ELIMINATE THE MAJOR SOURCE OF INSTABILITY IN THE REDUCTIONS AREA INHERENT IN THE CURRENT DISPARITY IN THOSE FORCES.

5. CANADIAN REP GRANDE MADE THE ONLY STATEMENT AT

THE OCTOBER 23 PLENARY MEETING. NOTING THAT EASTERN AND WESTERN LEADERS AT HELSINKI HAD EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT PROGRESS AT VIENNA WOULD FOLLOW THE CONCLUSION OF CSCE, GRANDE STATED THAT AGREEMENT ON STABILIZING MEASURES PROPOSED BY THE WEST WOULD CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE AIMS OF THE VIENNA TALKS. WITHOUT UNDULY INTERFERING WITH ACCEPTED AND LEGITIMATE MILITARY PRACTICES, THESE MEASURES WOULD HELP ENSURE THAT POST-PHASE I ACTIVITIES OF REMAINING US AND SOVIET FORCES IN THE REDUCTION AREA WOULD NOT GIVE RISE TO MISUNDERSTANDING AND APPREHENSION. THE CANADIAN REP SUMMARIZED THE SPECIFIC STABILIZING MEASURES SO FAR PROPOSED BY THE WEST. HE REPEATED THE WESTERN INVITATION TO THE EAST TO ENTER A SERIOUS DIALOGUE ON THESE AND OTHER ASSOCIATED MEASURES.

6. ON OCTOBER 22, THE AD HOC GROUP APPROVED THE GENERAL CONTENT OF THE FIRST ORAL REPORT TO NAC OF THE PRESENT ROUND FOR DELIVERY ON OCT 24 BY LUXEMBOURG REP WINTER. THE REPORT CONVEYED THE AHG ASSESSMENT THAT THE EAST IS CONVINCED OF AN EVENTUAL OFFER OF WESTERN NUCLEAR REDUCTIONS AND THAT NO MOVEMENT IS TO BE EXPECTED FROM THE EAST AT VIENNA BEFORE SUCH AN OFFER IS TABLED.

7. ALTHOUGH EASTERN CURIOSITY CONCERNING A POSSIBLE WESTERN NUCLEAR OFFER DOUBTLESS IS DIMINISHED, EASTERN REPS MAY NOW HAVE CONCLUDED THAT FURTHER AGGRESSIVE ATTEMPTS TO SOLICIT PREMATURE REVELATIONS FROM THEIR WESTERN COUNTERPARTS HERE ARE POINTLESS. THE EAST, NEVERTHELESS, APPEARS TO WISH TO AVOID THE IMPRESSION OF A TOTALLY
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STATIC SITUATION IN VIENNA. WESTERN REPS WILL CONTINUE TO USE THE FORCE DEFINITIONS ISSUE AS THE MOST CONVENIENT SHORT-RUN MEANS FOR SUSTAINING SOME DEGREE OF DIALOGUE IN THE TALKS. BY PRIOR AGREEMENT, NEXT WEEK'S INFORMAL SESSION WILL CONCENTRATE ON THIS ISSUE. WHILE NO EASTERN CONCESSIONS ARE ANTICIPATED WITH RESPECT TO FORCES WHOSE ALLOCATION IS IN DISPUTE, THERE MAY BE SOME LIMITED ROOM FOR MOVEMENT TOWARD TENTATIVE EAST-WEST AGREEMENT ON SOME OF THE GOALS OF A DEFINITION. RESOR

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